

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated August 6, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this response, claims 1, 4, 7 and 13 are hereby amended. Claims 14-25 are hereby cancelled. Claim 26 is hereby added. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-13 and 26 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 3-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,823,361 to Babbs (hereinafter “Babbs”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,006,919 to Betsuyaku (hereinafter “Betsuyaku”). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babbs in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,236,548 to Stadler et al. (hereinafter “Stadler”).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1 and 3-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,823,361 to Babbs (hereinafter “Babbs”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,006,919 to Betsuyaku (hereinafter “Betsuyaku”) and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 3-13 are allowable at least in that each of these claims recites a combination of element, including, for example, “first supporting bars are slightly spaced from each other and the second supporting bars are slightly spaced from each other, so that the first and second supporting bars are in contact with substantially the whole width of the of the first and second parallel sides.” None of the cited references, including Babbs and Betsuyaku, alone or in combination, teaches or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3-13.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babbs in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,823,361 to Stadler et al. (hereinafter “Stadler”). Claim 2 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 2 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “at least two rectangular supporting bars connected to at least two of the plurality of support members”. None of the cited references, including Babbs and

Stadler, teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. In particular, the Office Action admits at page 3 that "Babbs does not disclose rectangular supporting bars connecting two support members." Stadler fails to remedy the deficiency of Babbs. Accordingly, claim 2 is allowable over the cited references and the Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Furthermore, claim 26 is allowable at in that it recites a combination of elements, neither taught nor suggested, by the cited prior art, alone or in combination.

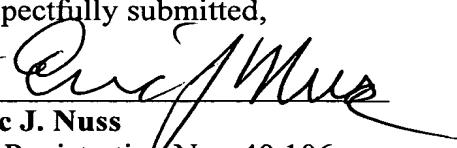
Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 5, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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